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September 28, 2007

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Mario J. Pérez, Director
Office of AIDS Programs and Policy

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF NON-RENEWAL OF HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE CONTRACTS**

This is to inform you that, after considered review and deliberation, the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP) will not recommend renewal of the Community Development Initiative contracts (CDI) with AltaMed Health Services Inc. and Palms Residential Care Facility. These contracts total \$250,000 each annually (\$200,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$50,000 from Net County Cost) and expire December 31, 2007. The contractors will be notified next week.

While OAPP embraces broad-scale community efforts as a strategy to further advance and improve HIV/AIDS efforts in the Latino and African-American communities, we maintain that a reassessment and reframing of the current initiative is necessary to ensure that we are indeed increasing awareness and improving community response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As currently conceptualized and implemented, the current initiative has focused mostly on impacting state and national HIV/AIDS related policy at the expense of grassroots and community-based organizing and mobilization.

In March 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a call for a Heightened National Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis among African Americans. This document highlights the need for mobilizing broader community action in the African-American community, among several recommended strategies. Given the ongoing local impact of HIV/AIDS in the African-American and Latino communities, OAPP is committed to ensuring that the local iteration of this CDC recommended strategy is having the greatest impact possible.

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Over the next several months, OAPP will develop a community mobilization framework that will serve as guide for the development of an African-American and Latino HIV/AIDS Community Mobilization Request for Proposals. OAPP projects that the RFP will be released in July 2008. Between January 1, 2008 and until the community mobilization efforts resume in 2009, OAPP will take resources previously spent on the Community Development Initiative and instead invest them in direct client services.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (213) 351-8001.

MJP:CVM:dlp

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